



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Community Development Block Grant Program  
3 administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and  
4 Economic Opportunity has served as a foundation upon which  
5 local governments across Illinois have created jobs, developed  
6 affordable housing, stabilized neighborhoods, and provided  
7 important public services for all Illinois citizens, including  
8 those economically disadvantaged and disabled, for the past 23  
9 years; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States Office of Management and Budget  
11 recommends the consolidation of 18 federal community  
12 development programs into a single program which will be housed  
13 in the United States Department of Commerce; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Office of Management and Budget  
15 proposal further recommends that the administration of  
16 community development and other programs be placed at the  
17 federal level despite the fact that Illinois has responsibly  
18 and effectively managed the program for 23 years; and

19 WHEREAS, As a result of this consolidation, programs with  
20 combined budgets totaling nearly \$5.7 billion will be squeezed  
21 into a \$3.7 billion package, resulting in program reductions of  
22 up to 40 percent in the Community Development Block Grant  
23 Program, which is currently funded at \$4.7 billion; and

24 WHEREAS, The Community Development Block Grant Program  
25 provides crucial funding for entitlement community grantees to  
26 carry out a wide range of community development activities  
27 directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, economic  
28 development, and providing improved community facilities and  
29 services; in FY 2004, almost \$37 million in Community  
30 Development Block Grant funding was directed to Illinois and  
31 allocated to 46 counties and communities across Illinois; and

1           WHEREAS, The State-managed Community Development Block  
2 Grant Program administers the funds for three imperative  
3 purposes: infrastructure development, business development,  
4 and home rehabilitation; in 2004, the State program invested  
5 more than \$33 million in community projects around the State;  
6 the program assisted 101 Illinois communities and more than  
7 66,000 residents with funding for improvements to their water,  
8 sanitary, or storm water systems; and

9           WHEREAS, The strength of the Community Development Block  
10 Grant Program lies in local determination of immediate need,  
11 flexible criteria in how to address infrastructure problems, a  
12 wide variety of eligible economic development activities, and  
13 the responsible administration of funds by State and local  
14 officials; and

15           WHEREAS, In FY 2004, Community Development Block Grant  
16 funds available to our smaller cities and counties in the State  
17 have leveraged the creation and retention of more than 1,000  
18 new jobs and, for low income homeowners in small and rural  
19 communities, have provided housing rehabilitation for 313  
20 homes in 27 communities to address health and safety issues;  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic  
23 Opportunity, the administering agency for Community  
24 Development Block Grant funds, has not only effectively  
25 designed and managed the Community Development Block Grant  
26 Non-Entitlement Program for small cities without incident for  
27 23 years, but has also been a responsible steward of federal  
28 funds and has developed programs tailored to meet specific,  
29 critical state-wide needs, including the Economic Development  
30 Program, Emergency Public Facilities Program, Housing Planning  
31 Assistance Program, and the Public Facilities Construction and  
32 Design Engineering Program; and

1           WHEREAS, While Illinois' rural communities continue to  
2 suffer from declines in traditional industries and face  
3 difficulties in arranging the resources to develop and attract  
4 the new economic engines of the twenty-first century, the  
5 tenacity and innovation shown by local governments in  
6 initiating local solutions to their needs point the way towards  
7 successful concepts that can be cultivated and expanded; and

8           WHEREAS, The State-administered Community Development  
9 Block Grant Program is playing a pivotal role in providing the  
10 seed capital and leveraging of private funds needed for these  
11 communities to create and implement their own local solutions;  
12 therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 this body urges the continued support and full funding of the  
16 Community Development Block Grant Program for city and county  
17 community and economic development programs and projects, and  
18 supports continued administration of the Community Development  
19 Block Grant Program at the State level; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
21 delivered to United States Senator Richard Durbin, United  
22 States Senator Barack Obama, United States Speaker of the House  
23 Dennis Hastert, and the other members of the Illinois  
24 congressional delegation.